THE
Buckinghamshire
MIRACLE;
OR, THE
World's WONDER.

BEING

A ſtrange, but true Relation of one Mr. EDWARD BARTON, at Ludlow, in the County of Bucks; who was foretold by a Viſion that he had but a ſhort Time to Live, bidding him prepare for the next World; adding, That there will be good Times in England and Wales, and that Vice, Immorality, add Prophaneſs will be ſuppreſſed; but that He ſhould not ſee it, as he had only thirteen Days to live.

To which is added, a

SERMON

Preached at his Funeral by Dr. BOLTON, Vicar of the ſaid Pariſh.

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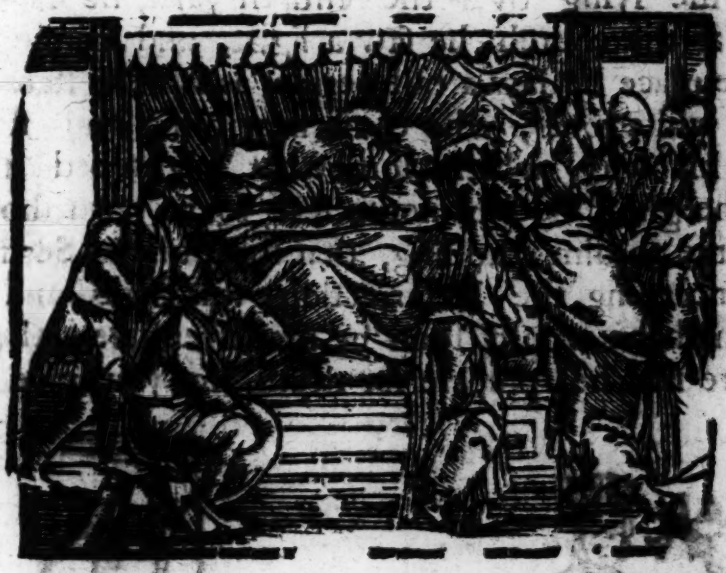
THE

Buckinghamſhire Miracle.

AT Ludlow, in the county of Bucks, lived one Mr. Edward Barton, a wicked gentleman, who followed all ſorts of lewd courſes, and thereby became an Athieſt, denying a future ſtate, and eſteeming Religion as a meer fable. —— In the ſame pariſh lived alſo one John Wells, a godly, righteous, and charitable man; one that went conſtantly with his family to the church, and brought up his children in the fear of the Lord, having a good repute amongſt his neighbours, exhorting them often to become religious, to obſerve the rules of the goſpel, and to practice a Chriſtian life.—This good man went often to Mr. Barton to perſwade him from his wicked life, aſſuring him of the end of the world, the reſurrection of the body, and life eternal; which he told him was the reward of giving to the poor and needy, and ſo laying up treaſure in heaven.—After ſeveral converſations of this nature, Mr. Barton became ſober, embraced the Chriſtian Religion went conſtantly to church, and lived a good life, to the Joy of all his friends.

A ſhort time after Mr. Wells was taken ſick, in which time Mr. Barton came often to viſit him,

him, and in diſcourſing on the ſtate of men after Death, (in ſome of which points they could not agree) Mr. Barton propoſed to Mr. Wells to



make an agreement that which either died firſt, ſhould come and give the other an account of the next life, and whether the ſoul be immortal or not. Mr. Wells declined it, ſaying he knew not whether it was in the power of any man to perform ſuch a promiſe; but Mr. Barton being urgent, at length he promiſed him: and the ſequel will ſhew the reader the truth of the performance.

About three weeks after Mr. Wells died, and was buried on the 2d of January laſt: Mr. Barton being invited to the funeral, went to church with the corpſe, and heard a funeral Sermon which ended, they went to the houſe of the deceaſed,

ceaſed, with other neighbours, to comfort the ſorrowful widow; but finding himſelf ſomewhat ill, took his leave, it being then dark, and his way home lying over the church yard, he fancied near the church he ſaw a light, and coming to the place he ſaw a tall perſon, as it were ſtanding in white robes, who came near him, and ſtood in his way, which ſomewhat frightened him. The ghoſt bid him not to fear, for no harm ſhould come to him; adding, that the Funeral Sermon concerning the Reſurrection was true, and of which he would ſoon be made ſenſible; therefore ſaid he, prepare for death, for you have but

a ſhort time to live on earth. I am the ſpirit of John Wells (permitted to appear to you according to my promiſe) who often diſcourſed with you in the fleſh concerning the ſtate after death;

and

and what I told you then was the truth, but you ſcarcely believed. What you have ſeen and heard fail not to reveal unto the world for their advantage; warn them to a ſerious repentance, that they eſcape Hell, and proceed to the Joys of heaven.

The Proteſtant Religion ſhall flouriſh again, to the Joy of all good Chriſtians, and there ſhall be happy times in England and Wales; vice, immorality, and prophaneſs will in a great meaſure be ſuppreſſed; and this ſhall ſhortly be, but you ſhall not live to ſee it, having but thirteen days to abide in this world. —— This ſaid, he diſappeared, ſeemingly ſinking under the ground.

The viſion much affrighted him, ſo that he was all in a ſweat, and his hair ſtood up an end, he went to-bed, and ſpent part of the night in prayer; his wife, to whom he told the whole ſtory, watching by him. In the morning he had a ſhort ſleep, after which he ſaid, My time in this world is but ſhort, and my converſation during it ſhall be otherwiſe than formerly. Then he aroſe and refreſhed himſelf with convenient food, and laying aſide all worldly buſineſs, made his will, giving largely to the poor. The news of this ſtrange thing was ſoon ſpread, and many country people came flocking to ſee him; but he ſhunned company, and kept himſelf retired, conſtantly praying in ſolitude. He ſent for the miniſter, and communed with him about the

ſtate

ſtate of this life, and that to come, the immortality of the ſoul, and the day of Judgment. Being ſatisfied in his deſires he gave orders that his funeral ſermon might be preached from Mat. xxiv. 42.

Then ſaid he, Trouble not yourſelves to weep or grieve for me, but for yourſelves; I am going where I would have you by righteous ways endeavour to follow me; and upon the twelfth day of his ſickneſs he told them he had not another day to live, and going to-bed deſired the miniſter and his friends to keep him company that night, telling them when he ſlept he ſhould riſe no more till the Reſurrection; which ſo fell out, for he moſt ſweetly departed on the thirteenth Day. He was buried with great ſolemnity by the grave of Mr. Wells, who appeared to him the churchyard.

The SERMON preached by Dr. BOLTON,

Matthew xxiv. 42.

Watch therefore, for ye know not what Hour your Lord ſhall come.

My Beloved,

ON the occaſion of our dear brother's departure, I ſhall give you ſome exhortations to live here, that when you come to die you may be prepared to follow him, and to poſſeſs with him the fulneſs of thoſe Joys which eye hath not ſeen nor ear heard, nor hath it entered into the heart of man to conceive thoſe things that are laid up

for

for the righteous, nor the torments thoſe feel, who by ſin fail of this happineſs.—It is appointed for men once to die, and after death the Judgment. How happy will be it for theſe that do well.—No one is ſure how long he has to live, therefore to live well is the greateſt happineſs; that when the Lord cometh we may be ready to meet him, and go with him into everlaſting reſt, where is fullneſs of Joy and pleaſures for evermore; death ſhall not ſeize you, nor hell affright you, for the Lord ſhall come with thouſands of his angels and ſaints to judge the earth; whilſt the wicked call to the rocks and mountains to cover and hide them from the Judge, he ſhall ſay to you, Well done, good and faithful ſervant, enter into thy maſter's Joy. Then you that have watched the hour of his coming, and prepared yourſelves to receive him, ſhall aſcend triumphantly with him to ſit down at his right hand in glory. Then will your bodies reunite with your ſoul, and receive the reward of your labor in watching the hour of your Lord's coming, and ſhall ſhine as the ſun in the kingdom of your father.—Tho' a temporal death fall on the righteous, yet they may be rather ſaid tobe changed than die, as they only die bodily, for their ſoul is tranſlated to a happy ſtate, and not capable of dying here, nor doomed to the ſecond death to dwell with devils and damned ſpirits; but on its departure from the body it is conducted by angels into eternal reſt, where it remains till the trump of God ſhall

call

call the body at the laſt day to reunite with it again, and thus by the death of Chriſt having got a compleat victory over death and the grave, ſhall aſcend together into heaven, never more to alter its ſtate, but be in fulneſs of Joy beholding the viſion of God.

Laſtly, It appears from the ſcripture, how compaſſionately the Almighty doth exhort men to repentance, declaring, that whoſoever cometh unto him he will in no wiſe caſt out; yea though their ſins are of a ſcarlet dye, even of the greateſt magnitude, yet if they will forſake heir evil ways, he will have mercy upon them and ſave them. Therefore, my beloved brethren, watch and pray, that ye may be prepared for the Lord's coming.—Conſider what has been ſaid, and the Lord give you underſtanding in all things.—Now to God the Father, &c.

The witneſſes that were preſent when he declared in what manner the Spirit appeared to him in the church yard, and what words it ſpoke to him, took an exact account of the ſame, and related it before

HENRY BOLTON, Vicar.

Sir EDWARD SMITH, Bart.

JOHN JONES and T. TRAY, Eſqrs.

FINIS.